

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2001, subsequent to the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 submitted on September 27, 2001, and in response to the Notice of Abandonment dated April 26, 2002, claim 18 has been amended. Claims 1-69 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Record is made of telephone interviews between Examiner Choules and George H. Gates, Applicants' attorney, that occurred on April 1, 2002, April 25, 2002 and May 8, 2002. The status of the application, the Examiner's non-receipt of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 submitted on September 27, 2001, the abandonment of the application, and the format of the claim amendments were discussed during the interviews.

III. BRACKETING AND UNDERLINING OF CLAIMS

In the Office Action dated September 13, 2001, it was asserted that the amendment filed June 14, 2001 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(e). In the Notice of Abandonment, it was asserted that the amendment filed April 2, 2002 (originally September 27, 2001) also failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121 and 1.173. Specifically, claims 8 and 18 were not bracketed and underlined from the original as required.

Applicants' attorney has decided not to make the amendment to claim 8, and has bracketed and underlined claim 18 as indicated above. Moreover, these amendments comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

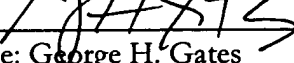
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By their attorneys,

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Date: May 9, 2002

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GHG/sjm